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To: 'microsoft.atr(a)usdoj.gov'
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

It's ironic that Microsoft was praised for being a fierce competitor as the company grew and now they're reviled for the same practices. The difference is that they've now got a monopoly and like it or not those competitive practices are preventing further competition!

The settlement as proposed simply does not prevent Microsoft from preserving their operating system monopoly and thereby leveraging it to sell their other products - the very definition of anti-competitive practice. Nothing short of unconditional licensing of their source code will prevent this, even with an oversight committee.

One of Microsoft's suggestions was to provide computers for education. This is the seed of a good idea that ultimately will grow to be in their favor: an entire generation raised on their operating systems. If they are to give something to education have it be cash. There's plenty of school districts that are in need of far more essential things than computers. If it must be computers, insist that all Microsoft's expense goes for hardware and have a different operating system installed, like Linux. This would certainly increase competition in the long run.

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"The way ahead intrigues me, from hell to hallelujah." - Corwin of Amber